

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-92 (Cancelled)

93 (Currently amended). A ~~monoclonal antibody~~ immobilized on a matrix or substrate on which a monoclonal antibody is immobilized, said monoclonal antibody which specifically ~~recognizes~~ recognizing IGIF or IL-18 to adsorb said IGIF or IL-18 and to desorb it from said matrix or substrate in a yield of nearly 100% when the pH around the said monoclonal antibody is changed, said IGIF or IL-18 mainly showing a single protein band with that has an activity of inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production at a position corresponding to 19,000  $\pm$  5,000 daltons when electrophoresed in a sodium dodecylsulfate (SDS) polyacrylamide gel free of reducing agent, and having the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

(1) Molecular weight

19,000 $\pm$ 5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8 $\pm$ 1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Biological activity

Inducing the interferon- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Amino acid sequence

Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,  
wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

Claims 94-98 (Cancelled).

99 (Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody matrix or substrate of claim 93, which wherein the monoclonal antibody~~ is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

100 (Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody matrix or substrate of claim 93, which is capable of inhibiting~~ the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 101-103 (Cancelled).

104 (Currently amended). A method for determining the presence of IGIF or IL-18 in a sample, comprising the steps of:  
contacting a sample suspected to contain IGIF or IL-18 with a ~~monoclonal antibody matrix or substrate, on which a monoclonal antibody is immobilized,~~ according to claim 93 under conditions suitable to promote the specific binding of the

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monoclonal antibody to IGIF or IL-18 to form an immune complex;  
and

detecting any such immune complex which is so formed.

Claim 105 (Cancelled).

106(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, wherein the monoclonal antibody is labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.

107(Previously presented). A method according to claim 104, further comprising the step of quantifying the amount of IGIF or IL-18 present in the sample.

Claims 108-115 (Cancelled).

116(Currently amended). A method of inhibiting the biological activity of IGIF or IL-18, comprising the step of contacting a ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix or substrate according to claim 100 with the IGIF or IL-18.

Claims 117-119 (Cancelled).

120(Currently amended). The ~~monoclonal antibody~~ matrix or substrate, on which a monoclonal antibody is immobilized, according to claim 93, said monoclonal antibody being obtained by using, as an antigen, IGIF or IL-18, which has been extracted and collected from the liver of a mouse previously

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challenged with *Corynebacterium parvum* and has the following physiochemical properties of (1) to (4):

(1) Molecular weight

19,000±5,000 daltons on gel filtration and sodium dodecyl sulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);

(2) Isoelectric point (pI)

4.8±1.0 on chromatofocusing;

(3) Biological activity

Inducing interferon- $\gamma$  production by immunocompetent cells; and

(4) Amino acid sequence

Comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.

121 (New). A means for detecting IGIF or IL-18, comprising a matrix or substrate according to claim 93 for use in detecting said IGIF or said IL-18 in a sample in the range of 50 to 2,000 pg/ml of said IGIF or said IL-18.